(Lakh Metric Tonnes)

Year	Nutrient	Demand	Production
2001-02	Nitrogen(N)	113.11	107.68
	Phosphate(P)	43.82	38.60
	Potash(K)	16.67	—
2002-03 (Estimated)	Nitrogen(N)	120.64	108.76
	Phosphate(P)	52.20	43.56
	Potash(K)	19.68	—

The entire requirement of potash (K) is met through imports of Muriate of Potash (MoP) in the absence of known commercially viable sources of production.

(b) India has achieved near self-sufficiency in urea production in the recent years. There was no import of urea in 2000-2001. However, India imported about 2 lakh MT during 2001-2002 to keep the pipeline stock at reasonable level. Again in 2002-2003, the country has not imported any urea so far despite the fact that there was no production from Sindri (closed since March 2002) and Durgapur (closed since July 1997) units. In view of the present indigenous production capacity, there will not be any impact in the over all availability of urea in the absence of production from Sindri and Durgapur plants.

Fertilizer production in HLL

3153. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Haldia unit of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation is having an agreement with Hindustan Lever Limited, for utilizing the Ammonia storage facility of Haldia unit;

(b) if so, whether disruption of this facility on account of Government's decision to close down Haldia unit would affect and lead to closure of fertilizer production in HLL; and

(c) if so, the action taken by Government to defer VSS in Haldia unit, to ensure utilization of Ammonia storage plant of HFCL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, the agreement

between Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd. (HFC) and Hind Lever Chemicals Ltd. (HLCL) for utilizing the Ammonia storage facility of Haldia unit of HFC is valid upto 31.12.2002. However, HLCL has requested HFC to continue this arrangement till 31.12.2003.

(c) There is no proposal to defer the offer of Voluntary Separation Scheme in the Haldia unit of HFC.

Recommendations of GoM on Subsidy

†3154. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Committee of Ministers, under the Chairmanship of Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, had been constituted to give suggestions on fertilizer industry;

(b) if so, the names of other Ministers/members in this Committee;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the said Committee has recommended in its report to withdraw subsidy from fertilizers; and

(d) if so, by when the subsidy has been recommended to be withdrawn?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (d) The Government had constituted a Group of Ministers (GoM) on 8th March, 2002 consisting of Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, Minister of Chemicals & Fertilizers, Minister of Shipping, Minister of Commerce and Industry, Minister of Disinvestment, Minister of Agriculture and Minister of Finance. The name of Finance Minister was deleted from GoM on 24.9.2002. The GoM was constituted to examine the proposal for formulation of 7th and 8th pricing periods and to consider the Expenditure Reforms Commission (ERC)'s report on rationalizing fertilizer subsidies and give its recommendations.

The policy parameters for 7th and 8th pricing periods were approved by the competent authority on 16.5.2002, which were communicated to all urea units on 4.6.2002. The GoM has, in its meeting held on 9.10.2002,

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.